



Review of Engineering Work Session Law 2013-413

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Overview- Review of Engineering Work

- House Bill 74 (Session Law 2013-413) mandated that DENR, DHHS, DOT, and local governments study internal processes used for review of engineering work
- The study asked for the study group to examine:
 - Role professional engineers play in the review of applications and plans for environmental permits





Overview- Review of Engineering Work

- Mechanisms in place to ensure non professional engineers are not engaged in the practice of engineering
- Determine if applications and plans are being reviewed to satisfy the requirements of the statute, rule, standard or criterion or if reviews are exceeding such requirements
- Opportunities to eliminate unnecessary revisions and streamline and improve the review process





Review of Engineering Work- Stakeholder Group

- DENR organized a stakeholder group of representatives of the various Departments and local governments with delegated environmental permitting programs
- The group met in November 2013, discussed the provisions of SL 2013-413 with respect to their regulatory programs, and submitted feedback for the report





Findings- Review of Engineering Work

- Diverse range of engineering review required across regulatory programs (some require PEs and some do not, although general review process the same)
- Mechanisms in place to prevent the unauthorized practice of engineering
- New requirements limiting review by non-professional engineers will result in increased review time for many programs





Recommendations- Review of Engineering Work

- DENR Recommendations
 - Review checklists with input from regulated community (tied to statute, rule, standard or criterion)
 - Enhanced review of innovative designs/new technology via pre-application meeting with professional engineer on staff





Recommendations- Review of Engineering Work

- DENR Recommendations
 - Improved communication and customer service
 - Offer pre-application meetings when workload allows or after two letters requesting additional information
 - Offer meetings with representatives from each permitting unit on a predetermined monthly schedule to discuss issues/improvement opportunities with applicants and consultants





Recommendations- Review of Engineering Work

- DHHS (On-Site Water Protection Branch)
Recommendations
 - Outreach education and training for design professionals to increase understanding, improve communication and streamline review processes
 - Revise and restructure current rules to clarify requirements and incorporate innovative practices with stakeholder input





Recommendations- Review of Engineering Work

- Local Government Recommendations
 - Implement an electronic application and plan review process (increases transparency)
 - Establish staff performance goals so reviews are completed within a reasonable amount of time
 - Define what comments “constitute the practice of engineering” so that non professional engineers can avoid these when reviewing applications and plans





Questions?

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